

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 206510
ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 INSE-00 VO-05 L-03 CA-01
JUSE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 /025 R

DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:LARTHUR:NHM
APPROVED BY ARA:VPVAKY
HA - FASIEVERTS
ARA/CAR - RJSURBER (DRAFT)
ARA/CAR - GDE SANTILLANA (DRAFT)
ARA - SASHELTON (SUBSTANCE)
INS/CO - DCROSSLAND (DRAFT)
DOJ - DMEISSNER (DRAFT)
USCG - CDR. FAIGLE (PHONE)
-----101228 152142Z /13
O 152021Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 206510

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, HA, BF

SUBJECT: HAITIAN EMIGRATION PROBLEM

REF: (A) STATE 185416; (B) NASSAU 1584; (C) NASSAU 1597

1. OFFICIALS FROM STATE, JUSTICE, AND INS HAVE DISCUSSED GROWING PROBLEM OF HAITIAN ILLEGAL MIGRATION TO THE U.S., ESPECIALLY FROM OR THROUGH THE BAHAMAS, AND EMBASSY'S PROPOSAL (PARA 3 REFTEL B) TO SEND HIGH-LEVEL U.S. OFFICIAL TO DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM WITH GCOB. AS INITIAL STEP, DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT AMBASSADOR MAKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 206510

PRELIMINARY APPROACH TO APPROPRIATE SENIOR GCOB OFFICIALS. FOLLOW-UP VISIT BY HIGH-LEVEL TEAM FROM WASHINGTON, IF NECESSARY OR JUSTIFIED, COULD THEN BE UNDERTAKEN.

2. PURPOSE OF APPROACH IS: TO EXPLAIN U.S. IMMIGRATION LAW AND CONCERNS REGARDING ILLEGAL HAITIAN MIGRATION TO THE U.S.; TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM THE GCOB CONCERNING ITS PROCEDURES IN MONITORING AND CONTROLLING INFLUX OF ILLEGAL ALIENS INTO AND FROM ITS TERRITORY; AND TO SOUND OUT GCOB REGARDING POSSIBLE COOPERATION WITH THE U.S.

IN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM. GCOB RESPONSES WILL DETERMINE WHETHER FOLLOW-UP TO NASSAU BY HIGH-LEVEL U.S. TEAM WOULD BE USEFUL.

3. AMBASSADOR SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS IN HIS APPROACH:

--- U.S. IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT HEAVY INFLUX OF HAITIANS ILLEGALLY ENTERING U.S. IN FLORIDA, MANY OF WHOM RESIDED IN OR TRAVELED THROUGH THE BAHAMAS. BETWEEN DECEMBER 1977 AND MAY 1978 OVER 340 HAITIANS ARRIVED IN FLORIDA AFTER STOPPING OFF IN THE BAHAMAS. IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS, OVER ONE THOUSAND HAITIANS, WHO STOPPED OFF OR RESIDED IN THE BAHAMAS, HAVE BEEN APPREHENDED WHILE ATTEMPTING ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO THE U.S. (FYI - U.S. ATTRIBUTES MUCH OF THIS SUDDEN UPSWING OF ATTEMPTED ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO THE U.S. TO RECENTLY ANNOUNCED GCOB POLICY OF DEPORTING ALL ILLEGAL ALIENS WITHIN ITS TERRITORY. THERE ARE PRESENTLY 8,000 HAITIAN NATIONALS AWAITING EXCLUSION OR DEPORTATION HEARINGS IN SOUTHERN FLORIDA. MOST REQUEST ASYLUM DURING THE COURSE OF SUCH PROCEEDINGS AND, TO DATE, HAVE SUCCESSFULLY DELAYED RETURN TO HAITI BY LEGAL MANEUVERS. STATE, JUSTICE, AND INS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 206510

ARE WORKING ON WAYS TO QUICKLY RESOLVE THAT PROBLEM (END FYI).

--- MANY MEMBERS OF OUR CONGRESS HAVE EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN OVER RECENT WAVE OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND ARE SEEKING WAYS TO ELIMINATE IT. (SEE ALSO MEMO OF JULY 21, 1978 - COPY POUNCHED TO DCM - FROM ARA/CAR TO AMBASSADOR VAKY, SUBJECT: THE HAITIAN "REFUGEE" PROBLEM.) ISSUE IS GENERATING LARGE AMOUNT OF PUBLICITY, INCLUDING FULL PAGE "TIME" MAGAZINE ARTICLE, SOME OF WHICH IS CRITICAL OF THE GCOB AS WELL AS OF USG. CONSEQUENTLY WE ARE UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM MEMBERS OF FLORIDA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM.

--- UNDER U.S. LAW THOSE APPREHENDED WHILE ATTEMPTING ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO THE U.S. MUST BE RETURNED TO "THE COUNTRY FROM WHENCE THEY CAME" WITHOUT REGARD TO THEIR COUNTRY OF NATIONALITY OR ORIGIN. THOSE ADMITTING TO HAVING BEEN IN THE BAHAMAS PRIOR TO THEIR ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO THE U.S. MUST THUS BE RETURNED TO THE BAHAMAS.

--- IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF GCOB, AS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE WOULD UNDERTAKE MEASURES TO PREVENT THE UNHINDERED ILLEGAL MIGRATION OF SUCH PERSONS FROM OR THROUGH THE BAHAMAS.

--- TO DECREASE THE ATTRACTION OF THE U.S., THE USG IS IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURES RAPIDLY TO EXCLUDE ILLEGAL ALIENS, INCLUDING HAITIANS, TO RETURN THEM TO THE COUNTRY FROM WHENCE THEY CAME, AND TO DEPORT ILLEGAL ALIENS TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES OF NATIONALITY OR HABITUAL RESIDENCE. THE POLICY OF GIVING HAITIANS PERMISSION TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT ("WORK AUTHORIZATIONS") IS UNDER REVIEW AND MAY BE RESCINDED. IN ADDITION, MORE HAITIANS ARE BEING TAKEN INTO CUSTODY WHILE AWAITING HEARINGS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 206510

WE WISH TO MAKE THIS KNOWN PUBLICLY BOTH IN THE BAHAMAS AND HAITI. (EMBASSY'S SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO GIVE PUBLICITY TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS WOULD BE WELCOME.)

--- INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION (ICEM), AN ESTABLISHED ORGANIZATION WHICH DEALS WITH THE MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES AND OTHERS, INCLUDING THEIR REPATRIATION, MAY BE WILLING TO ASSIST GCOB IN REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL ALIENS WITHIN ITS TERRITORY. ICEM CAN OBTAIN SPECIAL AIR FARE RATES OR POSSIBLY CHARTER A BOAT ON A REGULAR BASIS THEREBY EFFECTING THE RETURN OF MORE PERSONS AT THE SAME LEVEL OF FUNDING. IN ORDER TO CONSIDER OR PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A PROJECT, ICEM MUST RECEIVE INVITATION BY INTERESTED COUNTRY (GCOB). WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO HELP GCOB IN APPROACHING ICEM.

4. AMBASSADOR SHOULD ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN FOLLOWING FROM GCOB OFFICIALS:

--- EXTENT OF GCOB INFORMATION AND INFORMATION GATHERING RESOURCES CONCERNING THE FLOW OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION THROUGH OR FROM ITS TERRITORY.

--- WOULD GCOB BE WILLING TO SHARE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ILLEGAL DEPARTURE OF BOATS TO THE U.S., OR PERSONS INVOLVED IN SUCH ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY SMUGGLERS?

--- WHAT KIND OF U.S. ASSISTANCE, SHOULD IT BE AVAILABLE, MIGHT BE USEFUL TO GCOB IN THIS RESPECT?

--- DOES GCOB DEFENSE FORCE HAVE ANY INSTRUCTION ON THE INTERCEPTION OF SUCH BOATS?

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 STATE 206510

--- HOW COULD U.S. COAST GUARD FURTHER ASSIST GCOB

DEFENSE FORCE IN THE INTERCEPTION OF BOATS THAT ARE OVER-
LOADED OR, FOR OTHER REASONS, IN DANGER OF SINKING?

--- WOULD THE GCOB ALLOW USCG UNITS TO ENTER
BAHAMIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS AND DISEMBARK ON
BAHAMIAN TERRITORY ANY PERSONS RESCUED FROM SUCH
BOATS?

--- GCOB PROCEDURES AS TO THE DEPORTATION OF ILLEGAL
ALIENS AND AN ESTIMATE OF THE TIME IT TAKES FROM THE
INITIATION OF DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS UNTIL THE ALIEN IS
ACTUALLY DEPORTED.

--- INFORMATION ABOUT BAHAMIAN ROUND-UP OF ILLEGAL
HAITIAN IMMIGRANTS. IS IT CONTINUING AND, IF SO, WHAT
ARE BAHAMIAN PLANS FOR IT?

--- WOULD GCOB BE WILLING TO CONSULT AND COORDINATE ANY
FUTURE ROUND-UPS WITH US?

--- WHAT ARE GCOB PLANS FOR INTERCEPTING HAITIAN BOATS
TRANSITING THE BAHAMAS AND HOW CAN WE HELP?

--- ARE THERE ANY ORGANIZED BAHAMIAN RINGS FOR
SMUGGLING HAITIANS TO FLORIDA? IF SO WHAT ACTION IS GCOB
TAKING AGAINST THESE RINGS AND IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN
HELP? HAITIAN IMMIGRATION PROBLEM LIKE THAT OF MEXICAN
ALIENS IS LIKELY TO BE WITH US FOR SOME TIME AND WE ARE
ANXIOUS TO WORK CLOSELY AND COOPERATIVELY WITH GCOB TO
CONTAIN AND OVERCOME IT. DOING SO IS IN INTERESTS OF
BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS AS IT IS SOURCE OF CONSIDERABLE
POTENTIAL IRRITATION WHICH WE WISH TO AVOID OR MITIGATE
TO EXTENT POSSIBLE. BAHAMAS IS ON OUR DOORSTEP, AND WE
HAVE IMPORTANT, MUTUAL INTERESTS WHICH THIS ISSUE COULD
JEOPARDIZE IF IT IS NOT APPROACHED CONSTRUCTIVELY BY BOTH
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 06 STATE 206510

OUR GOVERNMENTS. VANCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, ALIENS, IMMIGRANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE206510
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HA/ORM:LARTHUR:NHM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780334-0258
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808122/baaaeznm.tel
Line Count: 207
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 10d3f759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN HA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 185416; (B) NASSAU 1584; (C) NASSAU 1597
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1588349
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HAITIAN EMIGRATION PROBLEM
TAGS: SREF, HA, BF, US
To: NASSAU INFO PORT AU PRINCE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/10d3f759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014